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California's Natural Wildlands Legacy

California/Nevada Great Basin

Bureau of Land Management
California

Northeast California and northwest Nevada are a crossroads of distinct geologic provinces, resulting in a rich mosaic of natural resources. Here, the western Great Basin, northern Sierra Nevada Mountains, southern Cascade Range, and the volcanic Modoc Plateau converge. In the space of just a few miles Alpine landscapes give way to deserts, and volcanic tablelands border dusty prehistoric lakebeds.

Each year visitors and local residents hike, bike and ride horses along the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail, a showcase rail-trail with a rich history. The Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area contains one of the most preserved segments of the Applegate-Lassen National Historic Trail, a major route for gold-seekers in the mid-1800s. It also contains national register archaeology sites, important wildlife and riparian habitat, and outstanding scenery. The open grasslands of this portion of the Great Basin also provide important grazing for cattle ranching as well as the wild horses that roam the prairies.

An area of focus is the sagebrush steppe, where juniper expansion and wildfire damage has impacted wildlife species, particularly the sage grouse. The species' numbers have declined to the point they are being considered as an endangered species. BLM is working with other agencies and partners on conservation strategies.

Another focus for rehabilitation is the eradication of invasive weeds. Opportunities exist to control weed infestations before they become too large. Noxious weeds on public lands threaten recreation, the health of watersheds, wildlife, native plant and animal communities, and grazing.

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Rich Western Heritage

Remnants of important emigrant trails are still visible in the Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. The Applegate-Lassen Trail cuts through rugged High Rock Canyon, across the Warner Mountains and along the Pit River before heading south to Lake Almanor, then westward to the Sacramento Valley. The Nobles Trail veers through present day Susanville.

A Best Kept Secret

Eagle Lake, California's second largest natural lake, is a recreational jewel with two distinct personalities. Pine forests ring the south and west shores, while juniper and sage of the high desert take over in the north and east. Eighty percent of the lake basin is in public ownership, presenting excellent opportunities for communities and governments to conserve and protect the resource.

A Rail-Trail Pioneer

The Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail was one of the nation's early rail-trails, and ranks among the most scenic. In partnership with the Lassen National Forest and the community based Lassen Land and Trails Trust, the trail is managed as one of the premier recreation attractions in northeastern California.

Sustainable Ranching

Homesteaders began ranching this region over 100 years ago. Remnants of old-time ranching merge with modern-day rangeland management as cattlemen and BLM join together to sustain healthy rangelands for domestic livestock and wildlife alike.

A Living Legacy

Declared "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West," herds of wild horses roam much of this region protected by federal law. Descendants of animals left by pioneers, Indians, U.S. Cavalry and cowboys, these herds can often be seen by visitors as they graze and roam the high desert.

"Great things are done when men and mountains meet."

William Blake

Your lands....*Your legacy!*

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Partnerships with counties and communities lead to projects such as this weed-pull day at Lassen College

The headwaters of the Pit River, as it flows out of the Warner Mountains, Modoc County

Implementing projects designed to protect and restore habitat is critical to sensitive species such as the Sage Grouse.

Goals for the California/Nevada Great Basin

Protect historical and cultural heritage. Manage public lands to support healthy rangelands, particularly the sagebrush steppe, and provide clean and reliable water sources to the north state.

Partnerships

Lassen National Forest

Modoc-Washoe Experimental Stewardship

California Dept. of Fish and Game

Nevada Division of Wildlife

Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Key Assets of the California/Nevada Great Basin

- Applegate-Lassen National Historic Trail
- Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail
- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area
- Eagle Lake Basin
- Wild Horse and Burro viewing
- Sustainable Ranching
- Sagebrush Steppe

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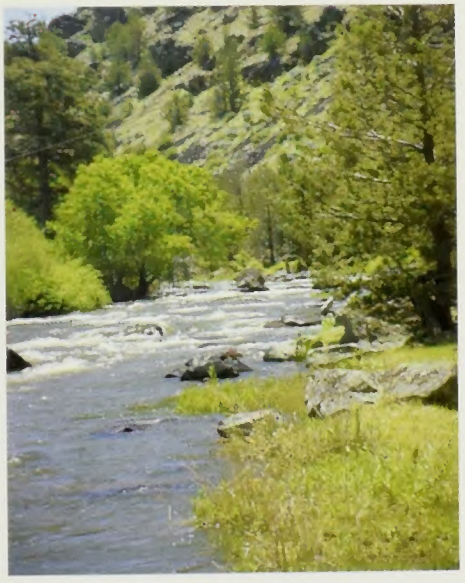

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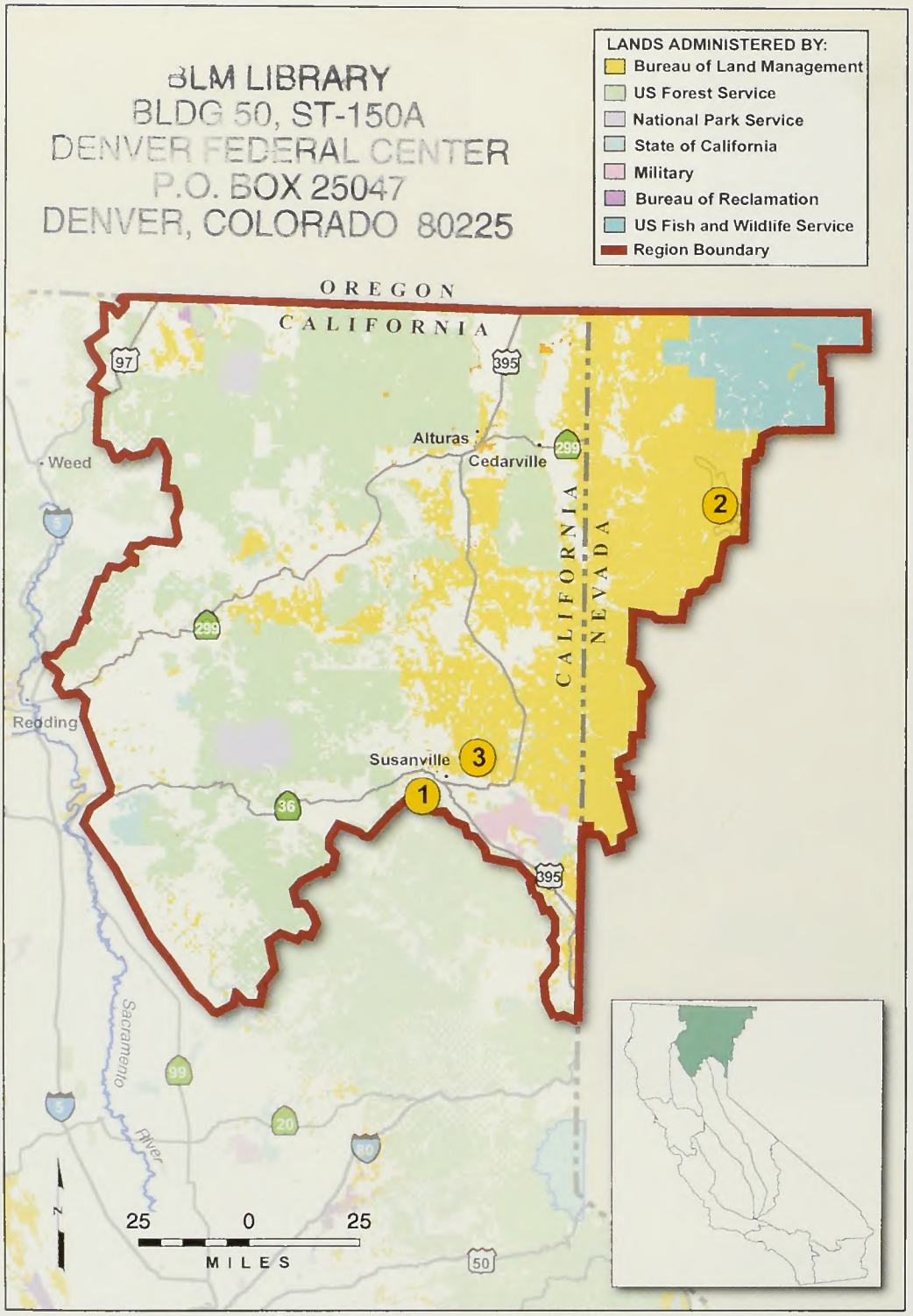

1. Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail
2. Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area
3. Eagle Lake Basin

California/ Nevada Great Basin

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
www.ca.blm.gov

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
Tel: 916.978.4400

Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, CA 96104
Tel: 530.279.6101

Eagle Lake Field Office
2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
Tel: 530.257.0456

Alturas Field Office
708 W. 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
Tel: 530.233.4666

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